

1-1964

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: January Sermons

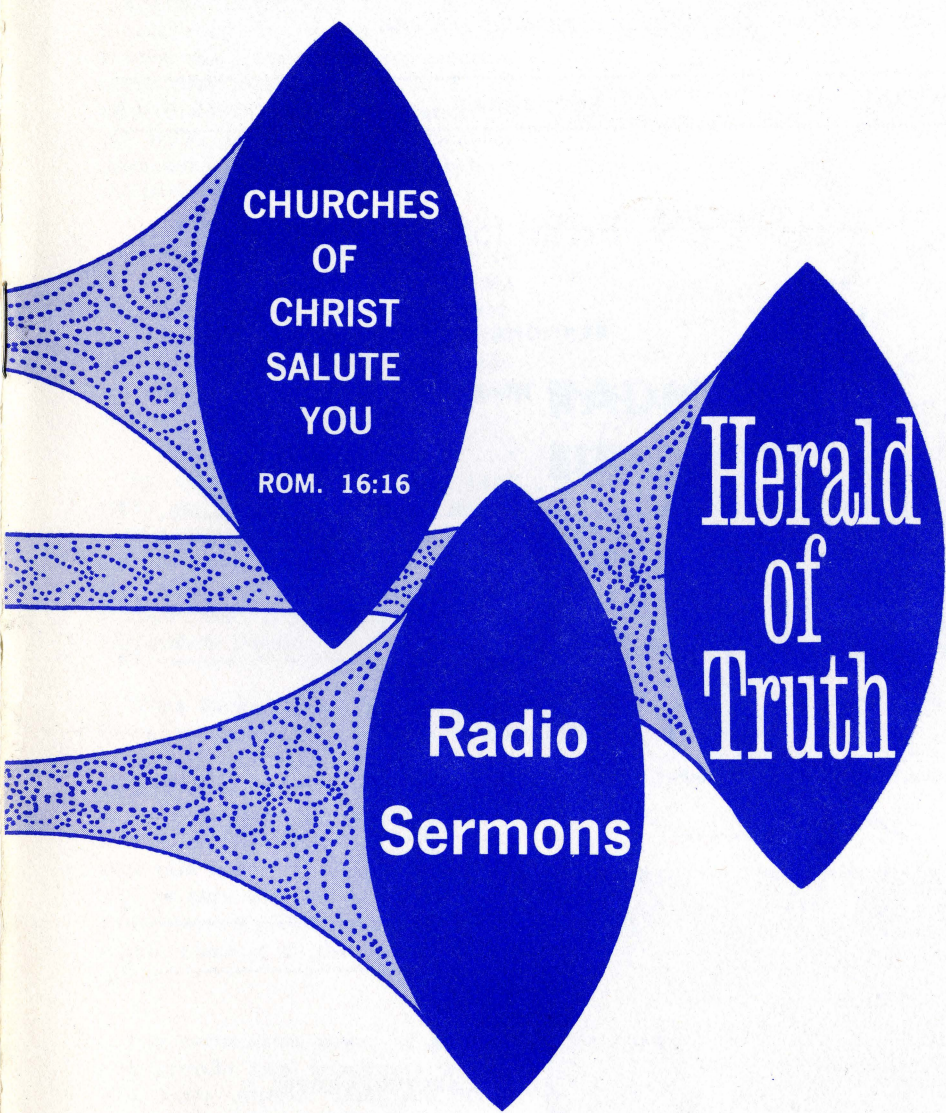
Herald of Truth

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.acu.edu/hot_docs

Recommended Citation

Herald of Truth, "Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: January Sermons" (1964). *Herald of Truth Documents*. Paper 192.
http://digitalcommons.acu.edu/hot_docs/192

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Herald of Truth Records at Digital Commons @ ACU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Herald of Truth Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ACU. For more information, please contact dc@acu.edu.



CHURCHES
OF
CHRIST
SALUTE
YOU

ROM. 16:16

Radio
Sermons

Herald
of
Truth

COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL

In Galatians 6:6, the apostle Paul commands us as follows: "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

In John 6:45, the Holy Spirit through John says: "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me."

The gospel is for all. It is God's power to save penitent, baptized believers.

Romans 10:14-15: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

Millions of men and women for whom Christ died have never heard of the savior of the world. How then can they call on him about whom they have never heard? How can they believe on him until they hear, for faith comes by hearing the word of the Lord, Romans 10:17.

Communicating the gospel is a function of the church, collectively and individually. For the last 11 years the church has been obeying the divine injunction to communicate the gospel to the lost, both by means of radio and by television. Doors are being opened. Opportunities are presenting themselves almost daily for the gospel to be carried into American homes, and homes beyond the seas to those who know Him not today. Brethren, can we be satisfied with anything less than an all out effort to do exactly what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has commanded us?

MOVING?

We would appreciate your notifying us in advance if possible when you have a change of address.

When notifying us of a change, please indicate both OLD and NEW addresses. Thanks!

Herald of Truth

Published each month in the interest of world-wide radio and television evangelism. Each issue contains the sermons broadcast on the nation-wide facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting System, the American Broadcasting Company and many independent stations.

JANUARY, 1964

ABILENE, TEXAS

VOL. XII, NO. 1

IN THIS ISSUE

SERMONS

By George W. Bailey

LET'S TAKE AN INVENTORY	3
CHRIST'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH	6
CAN YOU RECOMMEND YOUR RELIGION?	11
JESUS' PRAYER FOR UNITY	14

EDITORIAL

COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL	W. F. Cawyer	This page
------------------------------	--------------	-----------

STATION LOGS

TELEVISION	2
RADIO	8

NEWS AND LETTERS

WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL RADIO STATION CARRYING GOSPEL	
BROADCAST TO MILLIONS OF EUROPEANS	1
PROGRAM GROWTH IS CHARTED	1
FROM THE PHILIPPINES, WYOMING, OKLAHOMA, ALABAMA	17

HERALD OF TRUTH is a monthly publication of the Church of Christ, So. 5th and Highland, P. O. Box 2001, Abilene, Texas. This publication, and the radio and television programs bearing the name, **HERALD OF TRUTH**, are under the direction and supervision of the elders of the Highland congregation.

This publication is mailed to anyone requesting a copy and to each contributor of \$2.00 or more to the world-wide radio and television program.

Second Class postage paid at Abilene, Texas.

World's Most Powerful Radio Station Carrying Gospel Broadcasts to Millions of Europeans

Another major step in world-wide broadcasting was taken on October 9 when the Herald of Truth program began over Radio Europe No. 1, the most powerful long-wave station in the world, which reaches millions of Europeans, including many behind the Iron Curtain countries.

Located in Paris, France, and with its transmitter in the Saar, Radio Europe No. 1 is 34 times more powerful than any station in the United States. Its 1,700,000 watts are powerful enough to reach every listener on the European continent.

By comparison, there are 4,943 radio stations in the United States with a potential of 187 million people, and in Europe there are four commercial radio stations, including Radio Europe No. 1, with a potential of 280 million people.

"With Radio Europe No. 1 we can reach an important segment of the European population in English, the second most important language, in every country on the continent," the elders of Highland said. "We pray that this important link with Europe will be only the first of many major expansions to bring the program within reach of all the peoples of the world."

The tremendous power of the station permits local broadcasts in London, Paris, Madrid, Rome and Stockholm. Coverage includes Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, France, part of Spain, part of Norway, part of Sweden, Denmark, Holland, England, part of Scotland, part of Ireland, and a number of islands in that area.

The 30-minute Herald of Truth broadcast is heard each Wednesday from 1 to 1:30 a.m. Paris time, and an hour earlier in London.

The elders of Highland said that 13 broadcasts have been assured and that plans are under way to secure

time on the powerful station for at least 52 broadcasts.

Letters are now being sent out to missionaries in Europe soliciting

their prayers and interest in the program, and an attempt will be made to contact every missionary, both American and foreign, within range of the broadcasts.



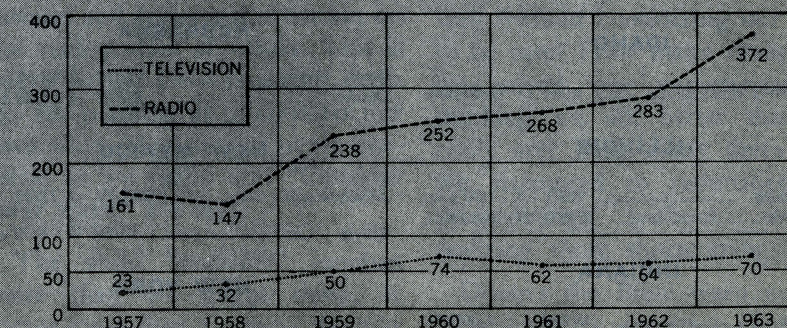
Program Growth Is Charted

The gradual but steady progress of the Herald of Truth program on radio and television is shown by the accompanying chart, indicating growth and acceptance of the programs since 1957.

The program is now on a total of 442 radio and television stations, or the greatest number since the program began on radio in 1952.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

STATION LINE-UP ANALYSIS HERALD OF TRUTH; 1957-1963



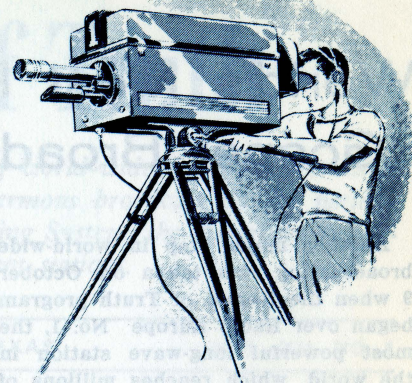
January, 1964

Stations Carrying Herald of Truth Television Programs

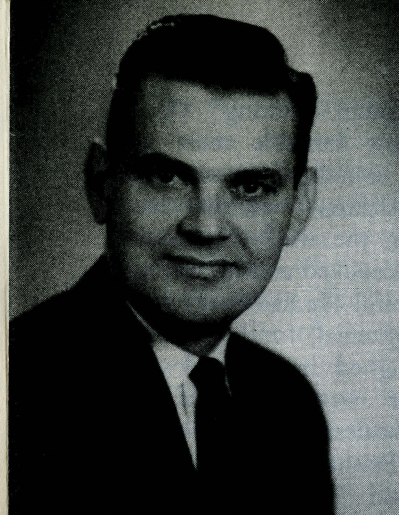
This list is not 100% correct due to frequent changes.

Check your local newspaper or television station for times not listed.

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.



City	Station	Ch.	Time	City	Station	Ch.	Time	City	Station	Ch.	Time	
ALABAMA				KENTUCKY				NORTH CAROLINA				
Birmingham	WBRC	6	5:05 a.m. (Wed.)	Bowling Green	WLTV	13	4:00 p.m.	Asheville	WISE	62	6:30 p.m. (Sat.)	
Huntsville	WFAG		1:00 p.m.	Louisville	WAVE	3	9:30 a.m.	High Point	WGHT	8	10:00 a.m.	
ALASKA				LOUISIANA				NORTH DAKOTA				
Juneau	KINY	8	1:30 p.m.	New Orleans	WVUE	13	11:00 a.m. (Every 3rd Sunday)	Bismarck	KFYR	5	9:30 a.m.	
ARIZONA				Shreveport	KSLA	12	8:00 a.m.	Minot	KMOT	10	9:30 a.m.	
Tucson	KOLD	13	10:15 a.m.	MAINE				Williston	KUMA	8	10:00 a.m.	
ARKANSAS				MARYLAND				OHIO				
Fort Smith	KFSA	5	9:30 a.m.	Salisbury	WBOC-TV	16		Columbus	WTVN-TV	6	11:30 p.m.	
Jonesboro	KAIT		2:30 p.m.	MICHIGAN				OKLAHOMA				
CALIFORNIA				MINNESOTA				OREGON				
Bakersfield	KBAK	29	10:30 a.m.	Bay City	WNEB	5	11:00 a.m.	Portland	KPTV	12	8:30 a.m.	
Chico	KHSL	12	8:30 a.m.	Detroit	CKLW	9	11:00 a.m.	PENNSYLVANIA				
Eureka	KVIQ	6	10:00 a.m.	Flint	WNEB	5	11:00 a.m.	Johnstown	WJAC	6	10:00 a.m.	
Fresno	KJEO	47	1:00 p.m.	Grand Rapids	WZZM	13	10:00 a.m.	SOUTH DAKOTA				
Los Angeles	KTLA	5	8:30 a.m.	Saginaw	WNEB	5	11:00 a.m.	TENNESSEE				
Redding	KVIP	7	10:00 a.m.	MISSISSIPPI				TEXAS				
San Diego	KOGO	10	8:00 a.m.	MISSOURI				VIRGINIA				
San Francisco	KGO	7	8:30 a.m. (Every 4th Sunday)	St. Paul	WCCO			WEST VIRGINIA				
San Jose	KNTV	11	2:30 p.m.	MISSISSIPPI				WISCONSIN				
San Luis Obispo	KSBY-TV	6	10:00 a.m.	Biloxi	WLOX	13	1:00 p.m.	Chattanooga	WRCB	3	9:00 a.m.	
Salinas	KSBW-TV	8	10:00 a.m.	Greenwood	WABG	6	3:30 p.m.	Johnson City	WJHL	11	11:00 a.m.	
COLORADO				Jackson	WJTV	12	10:00 a.m.	Nashville	WSM	4	7:00 a.m.	
Grand Junction	KREX	5	10:00 a.m.	Tupelo	WTWV	9	2:00 p.m.	TEXAS				
FLORIDA				MISSOURI				VIRGINIA				
Fort Myers	WINK	11	10:30 a.m.	Cape Girardeau	KFVS	12	8:30 p.m.	Abilene	KPAR	12	9:15 a.m.	
Orlando	WLOF	9	1:00 p.m.	Jefferson City	KRCG	13	2:00 p.m.	Amarillo	KVII	7	8:00 a.m.	
Tampa, St. Petersburg	WSUN	38	10:00 a.m.	St. Louis	KPLR	11	10:30 a.m.	Lubbock	KLBK	13	8:30 a.m.	
IDAHO				Springfield	KYTV	3	8:30 a.m.	El Paso	KELP	13	2:30 p.m.	
Twin Falls	KLIX	11	2:00 p.m.	NEBRASKA				Lufkin	KTRE-TV	9	12:30 p.m.	
ILLINOIS				NEW MEXICO				Sherman	KXII	12	5:00 p.m. (Sat.)	
Harrisburg	WSIL	3	1:30 p.m.	Albuquerque	KOAT-TV	4	12:00 Noon	VIRGINIA				
Rockford	WTVO	39	8:30 a.m.	Clovis	KVER	12	8:30 a.m.	Richmond	Petersburg	WXEX	8	9:30 a.m.
INDIANA				NEW YORK				Portsmouth	WAVY	10	9:30 a.m.	
Elkhart	WSJV		9:00 a.m. (Mon.)	NEW YORK				WEST VIRGINIA				
NEW YORK				NEW YORK				WISCONSIN				
Utica	WKTV	2	9:00 a.m.	NEW YORK				Bluefield	WHIS	6	9:15 a.m.	
NEW YORK				NEW YORK				Huntington	WHTN	13	10:30 a.m. (Sat.)	
NEW YORK				NEW YORK				Oak Hill	WOAY	4	8:30 a.m.	
NEW YORK				NEW YORK				WISCONSIN				
NEW YORK				NEW YORK				Green Bay	WLUK	11	9:30 a.m.	



George W. Bailey, Speaker

ABC and MBS Networks

Radio Sermon No. 623

January 5, 1964

During the past few days many business firms over the world have been engaged in taking what is called an "inventory." If you have ever helped in the taking of such an inventory you know just what all is involved. It is something that requires time, observation, and thought. It calls for a most care-

kind of examination be good for an individual? If such an inventory enables a business to see just where it stands, where it has failed, and how it can improve, why wouldn't a similiar analysis do the same for an individual? An honest, soul-searching examination of self can be as revealing and profitable to

or a quick glance. When the Lord said, "Consider your ways," He intended for man to *thoroughly analyze, carefully study, prayerfully ponder, and sincerely meditate* on his ways. This is not the *most pleasant undertaking*, but it can help one to a most profitable understanding!

Let's Take An Inventory

ful and critical examination of the business. Through this procedure there is an itemized listing of all stock that is on hand, a detailed analysis of all that has been bought and sold, and a thorough and minute accounting of all profits and losses.

a man as an inventory is to a business. It is certainly worth all of the time and effort involved. Let's take time out for just such an inventory, for this is exactly what the Lord is asking each of us to do.

Jeremiah expressed it this way to Israel, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord" (Lamentations 3:40). This man wanted his people to take an inventory that they might see just how they stood with the Lord. The apostle Paul called for the same thing in these words, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (II Corinthians 13:5).

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

This is a painstaking and time-consuming process, but it takes all the guesswork out. Business firms consider it most worthwhile, for it enables them to see just where they stand, where they have failed, and how they can improve. It gives them a clear and accurate picture of all that has been done, both good and bad. Business executives are anxious to know of every mistake that has been made that they may make the improvements that are necessary. Only in this way can they rise to higher heights.

"Thus saith the Lord, Consider your ways" (Haggai 1:7). This isn't always easy. We would much prefer to consider someone else's ways. We would much prefer to close our eyes to our own inadequacies and focus our attention on the inadequacies of others. This is not what the Lord is asking us to do. He is asking us to consider our own ways. He wants us to see ourselves as we really are! "Consider your ways," He says!

If such an inventory is good for business, why wouldn't the same

The word "consider" requires more than we might think. It means more than a passing thought

TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED!

How many times have we just taken it for granted that all was well without considering our ways to be sure? How many times have we salved our consciences by thinking we are better than we really are? How many times have we attempted to rationalize our shortcomings without actually realizing those shortcomings?

Doesn't the Bible warn us that "The heart is deceitful above all

things" (Jeremiah 17:9)? And then, the Lord asks this about the heart, "Who can know it?" Has it ever dawned on you that your own heart might have deceived you? The Bible speaks of self-deceit, and warns against it, over and over again. For instance, "If a man thinketh himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:3).

Just how well do you know your own heart? Are you sure you do know it? When have you last examined it? How thoughtfully and thoroughly did you search it? The heart is deceitful. It not only deceives others, but can also deceive self. The worst of all deceptions is self-deceit.

Such deceit can bring on conceit. Man deceives himself into thinking he is not so bad; hence, his heart swells with conceit. This is why one should constantly search his heart and seriously consider his ways that he might obey Him who said, "Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16).

Beloved, take nothing for granted. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Remember, "the Lord knoweth them that are his" (II Timothy 2:19). Man might deceive himself or others, but he can never deceive God, for God knows!

"BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT!"

How sobering are these words found in Numbers 32:23! You might stand pretty high in the estimation of the world, or in your own estimation, but how do you stand in the estimation of the Almighty? That's the big question! God sees you exactly as you are "Not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (II Corinthians 10:

18). Are you sure the Lord commends you? Are you sure the Lord approves of what you are doing?

David tells us that some will say, "The Lord shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it" (Psalms 94:7). Has this ever been your reasoning? Have you ever thought the Lord might not be aware of some deed of yours? My friends, don't think for a moment that anything escapes the eye of Him who knows all things! "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Some day the Lord will "make manifest the counsels of the heart" (I Corinthians 4:5). How surprised some will be on that day! How sadly disappointed many will be! Oh, how foolish we are not to make sure that we belong to Him! Oh, how foolish we are not to study His word to see what He requires, and not to study our own ways to see whether or not we have done all He requires. The Lord never makes a mistake in His knowledge of us, for "neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13).

Sins that now lie hidden will some day come to light. Faults of which we are now unaware will then be called to our attention. You can be sure, if not immediately then eventually your every sin will find you out! It behooves us, therefore to take personal inventory, and take it most thoughtfully and thoroughly. "Let us search and try our ways," as Jeremiah said. "Consider your ways," as saith the Lord.

HEAVEN'S SCALES ARE NEVER WRONG!

God once said to Belshazzar, "Thou are weighed in the balances,

and art found wanting" (Daniel 5:27). How horrible must have been the sound of those words when Belshazzar read that handwriting on the wall! No wonder his knees knocked and his thoughts troubled him! He had every reason to be frightened, for he was now being weighed in the scales that are never wrong. These were heaven's scales. When a man as sinful as Belshazzar comes to die, we are told "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

Heaven has some balances into which every man will be placed. On one side of the scales rests the love and mercy and provision of God. There with His love, mercy and provision lies every opportunity God has given to man. You will determine the weights that will be placed on the other side of heaven's balances. Your attitude toward God's great provision and your disposition toward His word will be weighed on the other side of the scales. Will the scales balance in your favor? Or, when you are so weighed, will you be found wanting?

Beloved, don't wait until the judgment day to see whether or not the scales will balance! Weigh yourself every day in the light of God's word. Take an inventory of all God has said, and then take an inventory of self to see if you have complied with all He has said. If you won't be admonished now, then don't be astonished later. If you won't be admonished now to examine the scriptures and to examine self, then don't be astonished later when you are judged by these scriptures and are found wanting!

CONCENTRATION CAN LEAD TO CONSECRATION!

For us to consider our ways requires concentration. For us to make our ways pleasing to the Lord requires consecration. These two words not only sound alike,

but are very closely related. There can never be any consecration without concentration. Consecration is simply concentrating all our thoughts and our very lives on Christ. This is why we must consider our ways. This is why we must do a lot of thinking, examining and analyzing of our every step. There can be no consecration by which we please the Lord without a concentration on what does please the Lord!

Let me suggest for your consideration the example of David. In Psalms 119:59 he said, "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies." His thinking on his own ways required concentration. The turning of his feet to the Lord resulted in consecration. He would never have turned his feet to the testimonies of the Lord had he not first done some thinking on his ways.

David was aware of the fact that his life was an open book before God. He said, "O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee" (Psalms 69:5). While God was fully aware of his ways, David was not fully aware of them until he spent some time thinking and considering. This might be true in your case.

TAKE AN INVENTORY BY ASKING YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Do I believe Jesus is all the Bible claims Him to be? Do I realize that Jesus said, "Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24)? Have I truly repented of all my sins? Do I realize that Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall perish" (Luke 13:5)?

Before being baptized did I make the confession that one in the Bible made, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37)? Or, did I make some confession for which there is no example in the New Testament?

Have I ever been baptized? If not, do I not realize the Lord said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16)? Why haven't I been baptized? Doesn't the Lord teach that I must if I expect to be saved?

If I have been baptized, what was it for? Was it just to join a church, or was it "for the remission of sins" as the Lord said (Acts 2:38)? Am I sure I have been scripturally baptized? Have I carefully checked all the Bible has to say about baptism, or have I taken some man's word for it?

Was I immersed, or did I have water sprinkled or poured on my head? Did not the Lord tell us that baptism is a burial (Romans 6:4)? How could I be content with anything other than just what the Lord said?

Did I think I was saved before I was baptized? If so, how have I regarded the Holy Spirit's statement in I Peter 3:21, "Baptism doth also now save you"? How do I regard the Holy Spirit's instruction to Saul, "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16)? Doesn't the Bible also teach us that we put on Christ only when we are baptized (Galatians 3:27)? How then could I believe I was saved before baptism when baptism is said to be "for the remission of sins," and that in being baptized sins are washed away, and that baptism saves us?

Can I find in the New Testament the name of the church of which I am a member? If not, am I sure this church belongs to the Lord? Didn't the Lord say, "There is one body" (Ephesians 4:4)? Didn't He tell us that that body is the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23)? Didn't the Lord also say, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13)? Isn't it true that no denomination came into existence until many years

after the Lord established His church?

To what church does the Lord add the saved (Acts 2:47)? Do I not want to be in the Lord's church where the saved are? Why would I be content to be in some denomination, then, that the New Testament says nothing about?

Am I sincerely trying to please my Lord in every respect? Have I let prejudice keep me from investigating to see if I might be wrong religiously? Am I willing to be just a simple New Testament Christian and refuse any creed or teaching written by men? Have I been willing to take God at His word and not try to substitute or change anything He has said?

Am I sincerely trying to be conscious of and overcome every weakness I have that I may not let a single thing keep me out of heaven? Am I aware of the fact that God is watching me as I attempt to check myself and that He knows the correct answer to all these questions, and that I cannot deceive Him?

Will I resolve here and now to study my Bible more carefully and consider my ways more closely and take Christianity more seriously that I may live as God wants me to live?

Beloved, God is asking us to consider our ways. He wants us to take nothing for granted. He wants us to rest assured that our sins will find us out. He wants us to be aware of the fact that we will some day be weighed in the scales that are never wrong. Let us then, as David, think on our ways, and turn our feet to His testimonies. There can be no real consecration without real concentration. Let's constantly take an inventory of self, and may God help each of us to see ourselves as He sees us that we may make every change necessary and be what God wants us to be!



Christ's Love For The Church

Radio Sermon No. 624
ABC and MBS Networks
January 12, 1964

by
George W. Bailey

If we would be Christ-minded, we must come to love everything Christ loved, and hate everything Christ hated. In Ephesians 5:25 Paul tells us that Christ loved the church. Let us consider Christ's love for the church that we may be Christ-minded in that we likewise will love the church. Maybe the following questions will help: (1) Why did Christ love the church? (2) To what extent did He love it? (3) Why do many today not love the church? (4) How can a man show his love for the church? (5) How much do you love the church?

WHY DID CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

I call your attention to God's *purpose* regarding the church, the *price* that was paid for it, its exalted *position*, God's *plan* through it, the *people* who make it up, and the *praise* those in the church can give to God.

First, consider God's purpose regarding the church. According to Ephesians 3:10, 11, the church is said to have been a part of God's eternal purpose. The church was not an afterthought, nor some on-the-spur-of-the-moment arrangement God made. To the contrary, no institution has ever been preceded by so much planning. Through the ages God prepared His people for the church which His Son was later to establish. When we fully understand that the church was according to God's eternal purpose, we can then understand why Jesus loved it so much.

Consider next the price that was paid for the church. In Acts 20:28 we are told that Jesus purchased it with His own blood. Being bought with the blood of Christ, it must be very important. With the price that was paid for it would you question that Jesus would love it?

Let us now think of the exalted position of the church. The expression "in the heavenly places" is used at least four times by Paul in the Ephesian letter. Twice it is used in connection with the church (Ephesians 3:10, 11; 1:20-23). Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). It is a divine institution.

What about the position of the church with reference to Christ Himself? When we understand the relationship between Christ and His church, we can understand the great love He had for the church. The church belongs to Christ. He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Notice that He referred to it as "my church." It is referred to as His body (Ephesians 1:22, 23). That body is said to be in Christ (Romans 12:4, 5). Would not a man then love his own body? Doesn't the scripture say, "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it even as the Lord the church" (Ephesians 5:29)?

The church is the kingdom of Christ. Revelation 1:5 tells us that those whom the Lord loosed with His blood He made to be a kingdom. Acts 20:28 informs us that it was the church that was purchased with the blood of Christ. God referred to the church as the kingdom. Jesus loved that church or kingdom because it has been so closely related to Him. He loved it because it is so closely related to God. It is said to be the "fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22, 23).

Turn to Ephesians 3:8-11 and let us think of God's plan through the church. According to that passage, it is God's arrangement that through the church His manifold wisdom is to be made known to the world. The church then has

a definite part to play in God's plan by which the world is to receive the gospel of Christ. Christ then loved the church because of the divine arrangement of God through it.

We have been considering God's purpose regarding the church, the price that was paid for it, its exalted position, and God's plan through it. Now let us consider the people who make it up, and then we can understand something of the love Jesus has for the church. The Bible tells us that the saved are in the church (Acts 2:47). Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), and therefore would love the church because God adds to the church those who are saved. Those in the church are said to be "members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (Ephesians 5:30).

Those in the church are the saved. They are members of God's family. They are the bride of Christ. They are in Christ, and in the heavenly places. What praise these people can give to God through Christ! "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Ephesians 3:21). It is in the church that man gives the greatest glory to God by Christ! This helps us to understand why Jesus loved the church.

TO WHAT EXTENT DID CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH?

Christ loved the church so much that He gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25). He loved the church as much as He loved Himself. He loved it so much that He bought it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). He believed the church was worth much, or He would not have given His blood for it. He loved it so much that He sanctified it and cleaned it by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:26). Jesus loved the church

so much that He gave us enough information about it that we might want to become members of it.

The love Christ had for the church was not a shallow one, but a sacrificial one. Can we be Christ-minded, and not have a sacrificial love for the church? Do we love the church to the extent Christ loved it?

WHY DO MANY TODAY NOT LOVE THE CHURCH?

If Jesus loved the church so much that He was willing to give His life for it, why do many today regard it so lightly? Why do some think it not essential? There might be several reasons, but let me mention a few.

In the first place, ignorance keeps many people from loving the church. Some really don't know a whole lot about it. They have confused the Lord's church with denominationalism. Beloved, the church of our Lord is not a denomination. The word "denomination" denotes "a sect" or "a party," but the church of our Lord is not a sect. It is not a party. The word "church" means "called out." Those in the church are "called out" of the world into Christ. The church is in Christ (Romans 12:4, 5), and a man cannot be in Christ without being in the church. The saved are in the church (Acts 2:47). One cannot be saved without being a member of the Lord's church.

The church then is not a denomination. Denominationalism did not come into existence until many years after the establishment of the Lord's church. The Lord did not establish many branches, but just one church. This is mentioned in several passages (I Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 3:15, etc.). Because many have confused the church with denomina-

lism, and are ignorant of its true nature, they have lightly regarded it.

In the next place, some do not like the church because of its simple organization. God's arrangement is foreign to the arrangement man might make. There is a tendency on man's part to over-organize. The more complicated a thing is, the more merit it seems to have. In the Lord's church we have no complicated arrangement, but the simple arrangement of elders and deacons. Elders are to oversee the flock, feed the flock, discipline and guide the flock. They are referred to as bishops, pastors, shepherds, overseers, elders. Deacons are appointed to serve the flock. The congregation is asked to submit to the oversight of the elders, and yet elders and deacons both have qualifications which they are to meet before they are appointed to their positions.

In the New Testament each local congregation was autonomous in itself. There were no headquarters, nor was one elder, nor one group of elders over more than one church. Evangelists, like all other members, are to be under the oversight of the bishops or elders of the church. Some are not content with this arrangement, and hence do not really love the church as they should.

There are others who do not love the church because they are not in sympathy with its mission. Some are rather socially minded and would like to make of the church a glorified country club. Many have forgotten that the church has a great mission of making known to the world the manifold wisdom of God. The only arrangement God has for spreading the cause of Christ to the world is through the church. This does not mean that the church is to become the author of the mes-

sage it declares to the world, or that the church has a right to change the message God has given, but its mission is simply to preach that message as it is written, and to preach it to the whole world.

Some do not love the church because they are not deeply committed to Christ who is the head of it. They are not ready for the sacrifices Christ calls for. Membership in the Lord's church calls for a total commitment to Christ and a complete obedience to everything Christ has commanded. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Some do not love the Lord's church enough to keep the commandments of Him who is over the church. One cannot live any way he wants and be a member of the Lord's church. For this reason many do not love it.

HOW CAN A MAN SHOW HIS LOVE FOR THE CHURCH?

The prophet Ezekiel once said, "For with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after covetousness. They hear thy words, but do not do them" (Ezekiel 33:31, 32). Some are like the people the prophet described. By lip they say they love the church, but by life they do not show that love.

For a man to really love the church, he must first love Christ. The church is wedded to Christ. It is a part of Christ. It was bought by Christ. It is so vitally connected with Christ.

On the other hand, a man cannot love Christ without loving His church. How can a man honor Christ and dishonor His body? The church is the body of Christ, and to love Christ is to love that body.

A person can show his love for the church by being a

member of it. He must seek it first (Matthew 6:33), and constantly put it first in his life (Luke 12:31-34). One can seek the church first by studying carefully the Bible to see what constitutes the Lord's church, and then submitting to it. It is by one spirit that we are baptized into one body (I Corinthians 12:13). One can show his love for the church then by being baptized into Christ as the Lord has directed.

A person can show his love for the church by being subject to Him who is the head of it. According to Ephesians 5:24, as the wife is to be subject to her husband, the church is to be subject to Christ. This simply means that you and I as members of the church must be subject to everything Christ has asked of us. As the wife is to reverence her husband, you and I as members of the church must reverence Christ (Ephesians 5:33).

A person can show his love for the church by being a faithful and devoted worker in it. He can show his love for the church by living in such a way as never to bring a reproach upon it. He can show his love for the church by helping to keep it pure, and free from innovation and error.

One can show his love for the church by supporting with his means the mission of the church. One can show his love for the church by showing his love for other members in the church. Jesus clearly teaches that we prove our discipleship when we have love one for another (John 13:33, 35). This means that we will help to edify other members of the church (Romans 14:19), and bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). It also means that we will help to restore the wayward in the church (Galatians 6:1).

Are you showing your life for the church? Are you a member of it? Are you subject to everything Christ has said? Are you showing reverence to Him?

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE THE CHURCH?

Inasmuch as one cannot love the Lord without loving His church, Let me ask about your love for Christ. Do you love Him enough to believe with all your heart that He is the Christ? Doesn't the Bible say that faith must work by love (Galatians 5:6)? Is your faith working? Is it working by love? Is it working penitence in your heart? Does it cause you to turn away from all of your sins, and in humble contribution turn to the Lord? Is it causing you to confess before men that Jesus is God's only begotten Son?

Do you love the Lord enough that you will be baptized into Him as He has directed you to do? It was the Lord who said baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Do you believe that? Have you done that? It was the Lord who said, "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (I Corinthians 12:13). Do you love Him enough that you have become a member of His church by being baptized?

Do you love the Lord enough that you are a faithful and devoted servant of His? Do you love Him and His church enough that you will not forsake the assembling of the saints (Hebrews 10:25)? Do you love Him enough that you will remember Him in the observance of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week? Do you love Christ and His church enough that you will give of your time and money for the support of His cause? Are you helping others to a better understanding of His church? Are you anxious to see

(Continued on page 17)

David once exclaimed, "Come and hear all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul" (Psalms 66:16). David had *tasted* of God's word, *tested* His word, and now *trusted* in that word. In it he had found something he could uphold, and something that would uphold him. He was now ready to tell the world about it. He could heartily recommend his religion, for he knew it was of God.

Are you as sure of your religion as David was of his? Is your religion *worth declaring to the world*, and is it *worthy of sharing*

What about your religion? Is it assuredly approved of God? If so, it can surely be proved by the word of God. Are we not told to "prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21)? Did the Lord not also say, "Be ready always to give answer to every man that asketh thee a reason for the hope that is within you" (I Peter 3:15)? Are you ready to do that?

Can you turn to the Bible and find there the church of which you are a member? Can you turn to the Bible and find there the doctrine which you have em-

"Whosoever goeth onward, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God; but he that abideth in the doctrine, hath both the Father and the Son" (II John 9). What about the doctrine that you have embraced? Are you sure it is the doctrine of Christ? Can you turn to the New Testament and find a "thus saith the Lord" for everything you teach or believe?

We are told, "All scripture given by inspiration of God is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may

CAN YOU RECOMMEND YOUR RELIGION?

by George W. Bailey *

with the world? Is it a matter of conviction with you, or is it mostly a thing of convenience for you?

Whether you realize it or not, each day you are either recommending your religion, or you are renouncing it as not being worth the effort. It might be well therefore for each to investigate his religion and see if it is worthy enough to uphold, and worth enough to uphold him. Let me begin by asking this question:

CAN YOU RECOMMEND YOUR RELIGION IN THE LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES?

That which is *assuredly approved of God* can *surely be proved by the word of God!*

*RADIO SERMON NO. 625
JANUARY 19, 1964
ABC AND MBS NETWORKS

braced? Can you find in the Bible the name you wear? Can you turn to the Bible and show beyond doubt that you are a true disciple of the Lord? May I urge each of you to thoroughly investigate these matters in the light of the New Testament, for that Book is our only standard in religion.

As to the church, the Bible speaks only of one. It was Christ who built it (Matthew 16:18). It is He who is the head of it (Colossians 1:18). It is to that church that God adds the saved (Acts 2:47). It is through that church we give glory to God by Christ (Ephesians 3:21). Are you a member of it? The Lord said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13).

As to doctrine, the Bible says,

be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible contains all the doctrine we need. Any doctrine not found in the scriptures is not the doctrine of Christ.

There are some doctrines taught by man which are not found in the New Testament. It is a serious thing for one to proclaim a doctrine which the Lord does not authorize. "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed," said the apostle Paul (Galatians 1:8).

As to name, the scripture says, "There is no other name under heaven given among men wherein we must be saved, for in none other is there salvation" (Acts 4:12). That name is the name of Christ.

Let us wear no name but the name of Christ. The Bible knows of no different kind of Christians. Let those who follow Christ refer to themselves simply as Christians, nothing more, nothing less.

As to discipleship, Jesus said, "If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). No man is sure that he is a disciple of our Lord until he is sure that he is abiding in the word of our Lord!

Can you recommend your religion in the light of the scriptures? Can you turn to the scriptures and find authority for all that you do religiously? Can you give a Bible reason for the hope you have? Are you a member of the only church the Bible speaks of? Are you wearing the only name the Lord wants you to wear? If not, you cannot truly recommend your religion in the light of the scriptures!

CAN YOU RECOMMEND YOUR RELIGION BY THE WAY YOU LIVE?

By the way we live we are showing our true evaluation of what we believe. It isn't only how we talk, but also how we walk that counts! People are not listening for an expression of our attitudes, but they are looking for an exemplification by our actions! Actions speak louder than words! Paul said of some, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

People are much more interested in demonstrations than in discussions. Are you demonstrating day by day what your religion means to you? "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20). "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (Matthew

7:18). What fruit do you have to show for the religion you claim?

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works? Can faith save him? Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:14, 18).

How can a man show his faith? Faith deals with the way a man thinks. How can a man see the thoughts of another? How can he know what is locked up within a man's mind? Before a man's faith can be seen, it must express itself in some deed. Our true belief results in our behavior. By one's behavior we can get an insight into his belief.

Is your behavior such that people know you heartily recommend your belief? Is your religion just something to talk about, or is it something to walk by? By the way you walk, what kind of a recommendation are you making of your religion? Do your life and your religion complement each other? Is each a commentary on the other?

If a man's religion doesn't change him, he needs to change his religion! If your religion hasn't changed you, something is wrong. What is wrong? Is there something wrong with your life, or is there something wrong with your religion?

The Bible teaches that we should "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things" (Titus 2:10). Are we doing that each day? The Lord said, "Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27). That is, let your "manner of life" be as it becometh the gospel of Christ. Is your manner of life everything the Lord wants it to be?

Christianity isn't something that comes in capsule form to be taken in Sunday doses, but it is a way of life. It must permeate every fiber of our being. As someone has said, "A man's weekday self and his Sunday self are two halves of a round trip ticket; not good if detached." We cannot recommend our religion by the way we live if we try to detach our Sunday self from our weekday self!

The only knowledge some people have of the religion of Christ is what they see reflected in your life and mine. The world is watching us six days during the week to see what we mean by what we say on the first day of the week. By the way we live, are we causing people to want to become Christians? By the way we live, are we letting people know that we are recommending the religion of our Lord? In this particular, our lives will either be a *living force* or a *lying farce*! In this respect, we will either be a *light that guides*, or a *lie that beguiles*!

CAN YOU RECOMMEND YOUR RELIGION BY THE WAY YOU SUPPORT IT?

Another way we show our true evaluation of a thing is the support we give to it. You say you recommend your religion? What support do you give to it? The way you give yourself to it is your price-tag of values.

Notice how Paul wholeheartedly gave himself to that which he believed. He said to the Corinthians, "I believed, and therefore did I speak" (II Corinthians 4:13). Why did he speak? He said, "I believed, and *therefore* did I speak." When you see the word "therefore," stop and see what it is "there for." Wherever the word "therefore" is found, it is "there for" a purpose. It means, "for the above stated reason." This word indicates why Paul spoke about his religion. It was because he be-

lieved. Paul's belief meant so much to him he couldn't keep quiet about it. He had to share it with the world. Paul then could recommend his religion by the way he supported it!

Just how much does your religion mean to you? Is it really worth supporting? Is it worth giving everything you have to it? Is it worth making a sacrifice for? If it isn't, you either do not have the religion of Christ, or you have not come to see the full significance of that religion! The religion of Christ can do for you what nothing else can do. It will give you something to live for, and something to die by. It will change your life, and make of you a new creature in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). When the religion of Christ means everything to you, it will cause you to make it mean something to someone else! Let me now ask another question.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND YOUR RELIGION BY THE WAY IT WORKS FOR YOU?

Some religions are rather shallow and empty. They don't give one anything to hold onto in time of need. What about yours? For instance, when death comes and steals a loved one and leaves a great loss behind, can you still recommend your religion? When the world seems to cave in, and the future seems dark and dreary, can you still recommend your religion? When you are sad, lonely, discouraged, and down and out, will your religion work for you?

Does your religion give you something to turn to, and someone upon whom to lean? If not, I say again there is something woefully lacking. You need to investigate your belief to see if it is properly founded upon the Word of God. That Word gives us this kind of a consolation, "My God shall supply all your needs accord-

ing to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). It is so reassuring to read in that Word such promises as this, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord, even to them that have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Not until we have embraced the true religion of Christ can we be said to be "more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). If we would enjoy the spiritual blessings which heaven has promised, we must be "in Christ," for we are told that every spiritual blessing is "in heavenly places, in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Not a single spiritual blessing is found out of Christ.

When we consider all the Lord has done for us, we can say with the inspired writer, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God" (I John 3:1). As children, we can "cast all of our cares upon him, for he careth for us" (I Peter 5:7). With Him as our Advocate, we can say, "I will not fear what men shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:6).

The religion of our Lord will work for us. It will support us, if we will support it! It is worth upholding, for it is worthy to uphold us! It furnishes everything we need. "No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly" (Psalms 84:11). I recommend this, and only this religion to the world! It is the only religion that will truly work!

ARE YOU SURE YOURS IS THE RELIGION OF CHRIST?

Beloved, by the way you live and the way you support it you may recommend your religion. You might think that religion works for you, and it might in some respects, but it will not work for you in the day of judgment

unless you can recommend it in the light of the scriptures! The Bible is our only authority in religion. Our belief and our behavior must be based solely upon that Word. The only way we will know whether or not we are true followers of Him is to turn to the Bible to see what constitutes a true follower of the Lord.

What about the faith you have? Is your faith built solely upon the evidence you find in the Word of God? Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). With the evidence furnished in that Word, do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God? Has such faith caused you to repent of your sins, and proclaim to the world your belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?

Has your faith in Christ caused you to be baptized into Him for remission of your sins? Since faith comes by hearing the word of God, it is that Word that gives us the evidence that baptism is "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). In that Word we find evidence that baptism must be a burial (Romans 6:4). In that Word we find evidence that baptism saves us (I Peter 3:21). There we find evidence that baptism enables one to walk in a new life (Romans 6:4, 5). We also find there evidence that the saved are added to the Lord's church. (Acts 2:47).

In the Word of God we have evidence as to what constitutes the Lord's church. Are you basing your faith upon that evidence? In your belief and your behavior are you so living as to recommend your religion to the world?

Beloved, may I plead with you to embrace no religion but the religion of Christ for that religion alone can one truly recommend in every respect!

JESUS' PRAYER FOR UNITY

by
George W. Bailey

It goes without saying that the religious world today is woefully divided. Is this anything over which to be alarmed? Does this religiously divided state really concern you? Does it really matter whether or not we are united? Could we ever expect to bring about religious unity, or is it completely out of the question?

Unity must have been of great concern to our Lord, for during the closing hours of His life on earth He so earnestly prayed for it. During those hours there were no doubt many things that weighed heavily upon His heart, but the unity of His people seemed uppermost. In the 17th chapter of John's gospel we have a record of that prayer. What was the purpose of such a plea?

WHY DID JESUS PRAY FOR UNITY?

If unity is not a matter of grave importance, why this prayer? In His petition to the Father He pleaded for unity, and here is the reason He gave: "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21). That's reason enough. Do we agree with such reasoning? Do we really want the world to believe that God sent Christ to the world? If so, we must put forth every effort possible to bring about this unity!

Such unity will both glorify God and benefit man. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalms 133:1). On the other hand, Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). Division will neither glorify God nor benefit man, but the unity Jesus prayed for is both for our own good, as well as for the good of God's cause.

WHAT KIND OF UNITY DID JESUS PRAY FOR?

Some have mistaken union for unity. Jesus did not pray for a mere union, but for a real unity. There is a difference. It is possible to have what men call a union without having what the Lord called a unity.

Jesus was not interested in a mere confederation of religions. He wanted true unity! He was not content with some kind of invisible unit. He wanted a unity that could be seen by all. He wanted His people to be so united that the world could know that they were one in Christ!

Jesus prayed for the kind of unity that exists between Him and the Father. Here is what He said, "That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20, 21). What kind of unity exists between God and Christ? Just a meaningless confederation, or some disguised harmony? No! But between God and Christ there exists a oneness of mind, purpose, judgment, and teaching.

Isn't this the kind of unity Paul pleaded for? To the Corinthians he said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). This was not some whim of Paul's, but it was "by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" that he so pleaded.

Here Jesus is asking that there be no divisions among us. His admonition is that we be united in heart, mind, purpose, speech, judgment, and in everything that pertains to the salvation of men! He

wants us to be one as He and God are one! Is this the kind of unity we have today? Are we all speaking the same thing? Is there no division among us? Are we perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment?

Let us consider for a moment the present religious status. There is a multiplicity of churches today, each teaching a different doctrine and each wearing a different name. Yet, all claim to be preaching from the same Bible, and all claim to be part of the same family. How could this be? The Lord said, "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). Today we are not agreed. How then could we claim to be walking together? How does the world regard such a claim?

Beloved, something is woefully wrong. What kind of reasoning would say that it doesn't matter what one believes, just so he is sincere? What kind of theology would declare one doctrine to be as good as another? What kind of logic would argue that all these doctrines come from the same Bible? What kind of Bible would allow for a multiplicity of conflicting beliefs? What kind of God would give a Bible containing these contradictory doctrines, and then have His Son so earnestly pray that all might be one?

"How can two walk together except they be agreed?" Oh, how the world laughs at the claims we make when we are so woefully divided! Remember, Jesus wants us to be one that the world may believe that God sent Him. What an impact a united people could have upon an unbelieving world! This poses still another question.

IS SUCH A UNITY OUT OF THE QUESTION?

When Jesus prayed that we might be one as He and God were

one, did He pray for something completely beyond the reach of man? Did He pray for something that could never be attained? Who would dare say our Lord prayed for that which could not possibly be? Surely our Lord knew what was possible and what wasn't!

Why would one think that such unity is out of the question? Doesn't the Lord know more about this than man? Doesn't the Lord know what to expect from man? Has He ever asked the impossible of us? This unity must be possible, or our Lord would not have asked it. May we work then to bring it about.

HAS SUCH UNITY EVER EXISTED?

Yes, there was a time when such unity existed. The Bible says, "All that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:44). It further says, "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul" (Acts 4:32).

When there was such unity you didn't find one group of disciples wearing one name, and another group wearing another name. You didn't find one group teaching one doctrine, and another group teaching another doctrine. People in that day were not told to join the church of their choice. They were together. They were of one heart and one soul. There were no denominations. Paul said, "There are many members, yet but one body" (I Corinthians 12:20). So Jesus did not pray for that which was impossible, for there was a time when God's people were united.

WHY CAN'T SUCH UNITY EXIST TODAY?

If there was a time when God's people were united, why can't His people be united today? You say

times are different. What made them different? What has changed the situation? Are we more at liberty to change or set aside God's law now than the people of that day? Surely not! The Lord expects just as much of us as He did of them. He is just as anxious for us to be united as He was for them to be united.

HOW CAN WE TODAY HAVE THIS UNITY FOR WHICH JESUS PRAYED?

This is a good question and one well worth considering. Jesus not only prayed a prayer for unity, but He provided a plan for unity. He would not dare leave us to work it out ourselves, for He knew there would be a diversity of opinion. He knew that we could never be united with God on some human creed, name or doctrine.

The Lord gave us His Word. In Jesus' prayer He spoke of that Word. "I have given them thy word" He said (John 17:14). That Word is the basis of the unity for which He prayed. It is on that Word alone that we can have unity both among ourselves and with God.

God's Word is the message of "holy men who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21). It was by the Holy Spirit's guidance that God's Word was revealed to men. In Ephesians 4:3 you will notice these words, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." What is the "unity of the Spirit"? Is it not the unity that is called for in God's Word which was revealed by the Spirit? To keep the unity of the Spirit is to keep the unity God's Word calls for!

Before there can be such unity there must be an agreement between you, your brother, and the Lord. It is not enough for you

and me to be united, but you and I must be united with God. In Acts 5:9 it is said that Ananias and Sapphira "agreed together to try the Spirit of God." Ananias and Sapphira were agreed together in this matter, but they were certainly not in agreement with the Lord; hence, it was not Christian unity! Whatever agreement might exist among men is to no avail, unless such agreement meets with God's approval.

If we expect to be united in our fellowship and with the Lord, we must submit completely to the Word of the Lord. His Word is our only authority; hence, we dare not deviate from it. If we expect to have the unity for which our Master prayed, we must take the Word as it is, make no substitutions and venture no changes in it.

In that Word we are told that "there is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Let us think of this passage for a moment. In it seven "ones" are mentioned. These are very closely tied together. The one God, one Lord and One Spirit have given us the basis for just one hope. That one hope is built upon just one faith. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is the "substance" or foundation of the things hoped for. One's hope then is built upon his faith. There is only one hope because there is only one faith.

This faith, we are told, "cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith is built upon the evidence we find in the Word of God. The Bible does not give rise to many faiths, for the Bible says that there

is one faith. When you find many faiths, you can know that some of these are not built solely upon the Word of God. There is one faith, and there is one hope. The only hope we have of eternal life is based upon the faith that we have in what God has said. We are called upon to give an answer for the reason of the hope that we have within us (I Peter 3:15). When we teach something or believe something that isn't specifically taught in the Bible, we cannot give a Bible reason for the hope we have.

There is one baptism. Since the only hope we have of pleasing God is built upon the one faith which God's Word furnishes, let us turn to that Word to see what constitutes the one baptism here mentioned. The Bible describes it as an immersion (Romans 6:4). We must not substitute sprinkling or pouring for immersion, for this would not constitute the one baptism the Lord mentions. This baptism is said to be "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). We cannot deny this and claim the one baptism the Lord mentions. Furthermore, the one baptism must be preceded by faith (Mark 16:16). It must also be preceded by repentance (Acts 2:38). In Acts 8 we have the story of the Ethiopian eunuch's conversion. He wanted to be baptized, but before being baptized he confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. Therefore, the one baptism must be preceded by just such a confession.

There is one body. This body is the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23). There are not many churches authorized in the Bible, but one. The Lord established only one (Matthew 16:18). He is the head of one church (Colossians 1:18). It is by one Spirit that we are baptized into that one body (I Corinthians 12:13).

Many people will acknowledge that there is one God, one Lord, one Spirit, but they cannot understand why there must be one church. To them this sounds ridiculous. Why? In the same passage where we are told there is one Lord, one God, one Spirit, we are also told there is one body. The Lord specifically tells us that the body is the church. With the information we have, there is just as much authority for believing in more than one God as there is for believing in more than one church. There is just as much authority for believing in more than one God as there is for believing in more than one faith, or more than one baptism.

Beloved, if we would have the one hope of eternal life, we must believe what the Bible says. The Bible says there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God. You and I can be united upon what the Bible does say, but we could never hope for unity upon what the Bible does not say. Why not lay aside human names and human creeds, for these divide us. Furthermore, human names and human creeds cannot save. If we are saved, we must accept God's Word for what it says, and stand solidly upon it. If all would do that, there would be but one church. If we would do that, all would recognize but one baptism. We would have one faith and one hope.

The Bible tells us that God adds to His church those who are saved (Acts 2:47). It is by one Spirit that we are baptized into that body (I Corinthians 12:13). Why not do that today and become a member of the church you read of in the New Testament? Why not then refer to that church only by the designations you find in the New Testament? Why not re-

(Continued on page 17)

JESUS' PRAYER ...

(Continued from page 16)

solve that in worship you will do just exactly what the Lord has asked, and follow the example you find in the New Testament?

May I plead with you to help bring about the unity for which our Lord prayed. He prayed for the same unity that exists between Him and God. He so prayed because He wanted the world to know that God had sent Him. Surely He did not pray for an impossibility. Time was when God's people were one. When we follow His word that same unity can exist today. The only hope we have of bringing about the unity for which Jesus prayed is to go back to the Bible and take that Word for what it says, adding nothing to it, and taking nothing from it. In so doing, we will wear no name but Christ's name and preach no doctrine but Christ's doctrine! Then, as one united people under Christ we can have the impact Christ wanted us to have upon a unbelieving world! May God help us to be so united!

CHRIST'S LOVE ...

(Continued from page 10)

other people become members of it?

When we substitute something else in place of the Lord's church, we are showing that we do not regard that church as highly as we should. The church has been exalted by Christ, and occupies a most prominent place in God's arrangement for the salvation of the world. No wonder Christ loved it so much! Can you be Christ-minded, and not love it as He loved it? Just how much do you love the church? May God help you to love it so much that you will be a member of it, and help all others to be members of it!

via the postman

FROM THE PHILIPPINES:

"The Herald of Truth program is doing an excellent job, not only across the United States, but even in the Philippines. The impact of its messages is appealing to both members as well as non-members of the church. May the good Lord be with you in your sincere endeavor to serve Him along this medium of teaching God's Word to the lost."

FROM THERMOPOLIS, WYOMING:

"Keep up the good work you are doing. Even though your program does not come into many places in Wyoming, we who are working here know of the good it is doing in breaking down prejudice and teaching people the truth."

FROM DRUMMOND, OKLAHOMA:

"The place of the television in our Christian lives is important. Television is one of the greatest mediums of reaching untold millions. Man will listen when he can see as well as hear the speaker. Only in eternity alone will we fully comprehend the vast majority you are reaching, and the good you have done. Only then when we stand at the judgment, will we not have to listen to the cry, 'I never knew, you never told me,' for because of you and television they are hearing; yea you are going to the uttermost parts of the earth and God said, 'My words will not return unto me void.' God be glorified through you His saints."

FROM GREENVILLE, ALABAMA:

"The Herald of Truth tapes are arriving on schedule and the broadcasts have begun. They are being well received. One of the local station announcers commented on the excellent quality of the production as well as content."

PROGRAM GROWTH ...

(Continued from page 1)

This year has seen the greatest increase yet in radio, and the elders of Highland Church of Christ attribute this increase over previous years to the intense interest of individuals and congregations in sponsoring or underwriting programs on stations in their locality.

About 100 radio and television stations have been added since January of last year.

During the past six years, radio and television stations carrying the program have increased steadily with the exception of two years. In 1960, the number of television stations exceeded the number this year by four stations, and in 1958 the number of radio stations dropped only to rise sharply the next year and continue with steady increase.

In regard to individuals and congregations sponsoring programs in their locality, the elders of Highland emphasized that this opportunity is open to any person or church which wishes to participate.

Under the arrangement, Highland Church of Christ furnishes tapes and films at no cost to the local sponsor, who pays only for the time. Many congregations have arranged to have announcements of church services on each program at no extra cost.

"We will gladly work with any congregation or individual who wishes to sponsor a program locally," the elders said. "This year, as in the past, we have had two of the finest radio speakers in the brotherhood. The soul-stirring sermons of brother Baxter and brother Bailey have resulted in many conversions. The mail we receive as a result of these programs is extremely gratifying. We pray that more and more congregations and individuals will become interested in sponsoring programs in their own locality."

HERALD OF TRUTH
Published Monthly By

HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fifth and Highland
P. O. Box 2001
ABILENE, TEXAS

Mr. Lemoine Lewis
Box 888, A. C. C. Station
Abilene, Texas

ELDERS

HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

P. O. BOX 2001

ABILENE, TEXAS

Yes, the results of radio-television evangelism are amazing and I want to add my part to this great effort to continue to reach thousands the world over for Christ!

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$.....

Name

Address

City Zone

State